California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1999 Volume 90 No. 5 $1.50

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

SEPT. 4

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Library will be open to everyone the first and third Saturdays, 10AM-3PM. (In addition, our Library continues to be open to the public from 10AM-3PM, Mon. thru Fri.) We have thousands of gardening-related books you can peruse in the Library. **Members** of SDFA can check them out. Located in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

SEPT. 4-5

LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN SOCIETY Annual Show & Exotic Plant Sale. The Arboretum of Los Angeles County. 301 North Baldwin Ave. Arcadia. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-4:30PM. 562/864-0883. Arboretum fee. Show, lectures & workshops free.

BEGINNING SEPT. 7

13 WEEK COURSE

BETTY NEWTON'S FALL CLASSES Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs & Flowers. Grossmont High School, Rm 51, 1100 Murray Dr., La Mesa. Tuesday Evening 6:20-9:30PM. 619/644-8218. $23.

BEGINNING SEPT. 8 - 6 WEEKS

CLASSES ON WATERING SYSTEMS FOR THE HOMEOWNER. Designing, installing & maintaining irrigation systems. Sprinklers & drip covered. Instructor Kathleen Smith. Foothills Adult Center, Rm 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Wednesday Evening 6:30-9:40PM. 619/401-4122. $15.

BEGINNING SEPT. 8 - 14 WEEKS

HOME LANDSCAPING CLASSES. Create a garden with less work & more fun; less water & more color; less cost & more success. Instructor Connie Beck. Santana Adult Center, Rm 1305, 9915 North Magnolia Ave., Santee. Wednesday Evening 6:30-8:30PM. 619/596-3657. $19.

BEGINNING SEPT. 9

12 WEEK COURSE

BETTY NEWTON'S FALL CLASSES Flower Gardens: Year Round Color with Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs & Old-Fashioned Roses. Foothills Adult Education Center, Rm 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Thursday 8:50AM-Noon. 619/401-4122. $22.

SEPT. 11

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Gourd Art Class. Instructor Carol Lang. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Sat. 9:30AM-2:30PM. $35 members of Quail, $45 nonmembers. Class size is limited. Preregistration & prepayment required. 760/436-3036.

SEPT 12

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Annual Iris Rhizome & Plant Sale in Patio B, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sun. 10AM-3PM or until depleted.

SEPT. 13 - 7 WEEKS

CLASSES IN FALL VEGETABLES, FROM SEED & TRANSPLANTS. Instructor Joyce Gemmell. Foothills Adult Center, Rm 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Monday Evenings 6:00-9:10PM. 619/401-4122. $15.

SEPT. 14

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Tour of Historical Adamson House and Gardens in Malibu. Tuesday, $29 & $32. Call Ann Waters 619/277-5004.

SEPT. 14

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Appalachian Basket Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tuesday 9:30AM-2:30PM. Information & Reservations 619/298-5182. $20.

SEPT. 21

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Japanese Craft Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tuesday 9:30AM-2:30PM. Information & Reservations 619/298-5182. $10.

SEPT. 25-26

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB Fall Show & Plant Sale. Demonstration at 1PM. Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

SEPT. 25-26

SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FAIR Del Mar Fairgrounds. Plant Sale & Culture Classes both days. Sat. 9AM-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Admission Free. Parking $5. Info 760/724-4711.

SEPT. 28

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Succulent Wreath for the Holidays Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Tuesday 9:30AM-2:30PM. Preregistration Required. Call Marie Walsh 619/298-5182. $40/$45.

OCT. 2-3

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Show &

(continued on page 132)

San Diego Floral Association
INCORPORATED MARCH 1910

Published by
San Diego Floral Association
for 89 Years

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Manuscripts are invited. Deadlines are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible, in WordPerfect 5.1. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

Send all editorial material and change of address to:

California Garden
San Diego Floral Association
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego CA 92101-4753

California SINCE 1909
GARDEN
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116
Telephone 619/232-5762
Arrangers Guild Chm. 619/463-6700

San Diego Floral Association
Casa del Prado, Room 105
Balboa Park
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Monday through Friday
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VOLUME 90 NUMBER 5

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1999

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FRONT COVER Illustration of chrysanthemum by Bridget S. Mack, who just received an art degree, and will now begin classes on teaching art.

Claims and opinions expressed by advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor and publisher of *California Garden* magazine.

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN 0008-1116) is published Bi-Monthly for donations of $7.00 per year or $13.00 for two years, foreign delivery add $6.00 per year, by San Diego Floral Association, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4753. © San Diego Floral Association, 1992. All rights reserved. Periodicals Postage paid at San Diego CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CALIFORNIA GARDEN, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4753.

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Plant Sale. 467 Fulvia St., Encinitas. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM. Info 760/942-1919 or 559/788-0200.

OCT. 4

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM Presenting Multiple Designers from Valley Center, each with a Special Artistic Flair! R. B. Community Presbyterian Church. Pomerado/R. B. Road. 12:30-3PM. $35 Series. $8 Door. 760/749-9608.

OCT. 5

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Pine Needle - Jacaranda Coil Basket Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Tuesday 9:30AM-2:30PM. Limit of 10 students. Info & Reservations 619/298-5182. $25/$30.

OCT. 7-10

THE HUNTINGTON. Fall Plant Festival. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Thurs. & Fri. Noon-4:30PM. Sat. & Sun. 10:30AM-4:30PM. 626/405-2141. Admission Fee. (Sales all days in parking area. Free).

OCT. 12 & 19

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Two Full Day Flower Arranging Classes. Instructor, Velma West. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Tuesdays 9:30AM-2:30PM. Class limit of 15. Call Marie Walsh for information. 619/298-5182. Preregistration Requested.

OCT. 16

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Fall Plant Sale in patio area of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 10AM-2PM, while plants, seeds & bulbs remain.

OCT. 16

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Plant Sale, Dried Flower Crafts, Rummage & Bake sales. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot Street, San Diego. 8AM-1PM. Benefits to Native Plant Park.

OCT. 16-17

SOGETSU IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO BRANCH Flower Exhibition. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Pk. Sat. & Sun. 11AM-4:30PM. Info 619/298-1535.

Oct. 19

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Quarterly Dinner Meeting/Program. Gerald Stewart, owner of New Leaf Nursery, speaking on "Gardening in Paradise". Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tuesday 5:45PM. Social. 232-5762. Payment and Reservation only. $6 members, $7 nonmembers.

OCT. 23-24

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Show & Plant Sale. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

OCT. 23-24

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS. Annual Fall Plant Sale. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-4:30PM. Admission fee to the Sale & the Gardens, for these two days, is reduced. Adults $3, children & members free. Info 760/436-3036. Web site at www.qbgardens.com.

OCT. 26

SOGETSU IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO BRANCH WORKSHOP by MASTER INSTRUCTOR MR. TOSHIYUKI OHKI. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Pk. 10-11:45AM. Morning Workshop Open to Public. Material available $20. Noon-1PM Obento Luncheon. $15. Reservation Required.
1:15-3PM Afternoon Workshop for Sogetsu Teachers & Advanced Students studying book #4. Material available $25. Info & Reservations 619/298-1535.

OCT. 30-31

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA Flower Show & Bazaar. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Pk. Sat. & Sun. 11AM-4PM. Demonstration 12:30PM & 2PM.

NOV. 1

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM Robert Gordon of San Luis Obispo. R. B. Community Presbyterian Church. Pomerado/R. B. Road. 12:30-3PM. $35 Series. $8 Door. 760/749-9608.

NOV. 1 - 6 WEEKS

CITRUS & AVOCADO CLASSES. Instructor Joyce Gemmell. Foothills Adult Center, Rm 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Monday Evening 6:00-9:10PM. 619/401-4122. $15.

NOV. 2

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Three-Ring Basket Class. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Pk. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Information & Reservations 619/298-5182. $25/$30.

NOV. 3

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASOOCIATION Tour. Lotusland, Santa Barbara. One Day Trip. Wednesday, $50 & $53. Meals included. Call Ann Waters 619/277-5004.

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The Flower and Garden Show at the 1999 Del Mar Fair

THANKS ITS EXHIBITORS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Walter Andersen Nursery
Anderson's La Costa Nursery
Argo Stone & Supply Co.
Bassett Orchids
Blue Horizon
Cactus King
Calif. Dept. of Forestry & Fire
Calif. Rare Fruit Growers
Don & Shirley Callard
Cedros Gardens
Terry Connors
Designs By Shellene
Earleen Diaz
East County Rose Society
Escobedo Gardening
EuroAmerican Propagators
Evergreen Nursery
Growing Development
Wayne Herder
High Country Water Lilies
Home Depot Inc.
KRC Rock
Lani Lambert
Landscapes to Behold/Casa Del Sol Landscaping
Master Composters
Gercirose
Miracosta Community College
V.N. Non Bo Club
North County CA Assn. Nurserymen
Palm Society of Southern Calif.
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
Professional Tree Care Assn. of San Diego
Quail Botanical Gardens
Nick Rodriguez
San Diego Wild Animal Park/Samia Rose Topiary
County of San Diego Dept. of Agriculture, Weights & Measures
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego Fern Society
San Diego Non Bo Club
San Diego Rose Society
Solana Succulents
Solana Recyclers/MasterComposters
Tiny Petals
Top To Bottom Landscaping
Bobby Valdez
Weidners' Gardens
Cleveland National Forest
Paul Ecke Ranch
UCCE Master Gardeners
San Diego Floral Association
San Diego Horticultural Society
Escondido FFA
Fallbrook FFA
La Costa Canyon Ecology Club
Orange Glen High School FFA
San Marcos FFA
Valley Center High School FFA

AND CONGRATULATES THESE AWARD WINNERS

Amateur Floral Sweepstakes....Tina Tindell
American Horticulture Society Award....Designs By Shellene
Walter Andersen Award....Top To Bottom Landscaping
Best Maintained Garden....Quail Botanical Gardens
Dee Bennett Rose Award....East County Rose Society
Coordinator's Trophy....KRC Rock, Inc.
Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Award....Home Depot Inc.
Dahlia Sweepstakes....Gerald Wolfe
Del Mar Flower and Garden Show Theme....San Diego Wild Animal Park/Samia Rose Topiary
Don Diego Trophy....Miracosta Community College
Paul Ecke, Sr. Trophy....Weidners' Gardens
Edwin Frazee Award....EuroAmerican Propagators
Gladiolus Sweepstakes....Camille McGovern
Hardscape Feature Award....Top To Bottom Landscaping
Irrigation Award....Fallbrook High School FFA
Landscape Contractor's Award for Most Practical Landscape....Blue Horizon
Landscape Contractor's Award for Most Creative Landscape....Anderson's La Costa Nursery
Manager's Trophy....Evergreen Nursery
Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal....Quail Botanical Gardens
Miniature Floral Design Sweepstakes....Sandi Lord
New Exhibitor Award....Landscapes to Behold/Casa Del Sol Landscaping
Orchid Sweepstakes....Bassett Orchids
Patio Garden Award....Solana Succulents
Professional Floral Sweepstakes....Crozier's Flowers
Rose Sweepstakes....Phil Ash
Royal Horticultural Society Award....Solana Succulents
San Diego Horticultural Society Award....San Diego Wild Animal Park/Samia Rose Topiary
San Diego County Award....San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego County Water Authority Awards
- 1st Place Commercial....Solana Succulents
- 2nd Place Commercial....Designs By Shellene
- 1st Place Non-commercial....Quail Botanical Gardens
- 2nd Place Non-commercial....Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
- 1st Place Youth....Escondido High School FFA
- 2nd Place Youth....Fallbrook High School FFA

Best Overall, All Categories....Escondido FFA
Outstanding Plant Specimens....Fallbrook FFA
San Diego Floral Association Award....Quail Botanical Gardens
Unique Landscape Award....San Diego Wild Animal Park/Samia Rose Topiary
Water Feature Award....Blue Horizon
Weidners' Garden Award....Solana Succulents
Outstanding Student Landscape Garden....Orange Glen High School FFA
Bonsai Best of Show....Pat McConahey
Birdhouses
- 1st Place, Unique....Bobby Valdez
- 1st Place, Functional....Bassett Orchids
- 1st Place, Decorative....Irene Gallegos

Special Award....KRC Rock
Special Award....San Diego Fern Society
Window Boxes
- 1st Place, Tropical....Anne Engert
- 1st Place, Flowering....Weidners' Gardens
- 1st Place, Succulent....Bassett Orchids
- 1st Place, Edible....Kimberly Hill
- 1st Place, Original....Sandy Stout

AND, WE APPRECIATE THE GENEROSITY OF THESE SUPPLIERS

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Soil Retention Systems
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Tayama Greenhouses, Inc.
Yoder Brothers

Gleanings . . .

HOT DRY DAYS . . .
It is Santa Ana season. Sometime in September or October hot dry winds will blow through our area. Even the normally damp coastal area is affected. Plants cannot take up enough water to keep them from wilting and it is difficult to tell if it is a temporary thing or the plant needs watering. The surface of the ground may be dry but the need for watering can be determined by exposing ground a few inches below the surface. During hot weather, watering should be done more often. Plants, particularly shade plants, can be helped by being lightly misted on a really hot day.

MULCH . . .
Mulch is spread over the surface of the soil as a ground cover. The reason is to conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, prevent erosion, and control weeds. Mulches can be a wide range of organic and inorganic material. The most common inorganic mulch is sheet black plastic shown in the picture of the strawberry plants. The black plastic also helps to heat the soil. A woven-fiber sheeting is popular, too. Organic mulches can be made of coarsely chopped vegetation, bark, nut shells, etc. The key word here is coarsely. No mulch should be placed up against the stem or trunk of the plant—leave a narrow open area. An organic mulch should be spread 3 to 4 inches thick over the soil.

San Diego has an excellent vegetation recycling program. Civic tree/plant clippings are taken to the Miramar Landfill and specially marked vegetation containers are emptied at individual homes throughout the city on a regular basis. All this material is chipped and chopped at the landfill. The resulting mulch is used throughout the city for landscaping purposes and ready-to-use mulch is available free to homeowners who come to the landfill to get it. Call 619/492-5010 for information.

FOOD . . .
For over fifty years California has been the largest producer of food and agricultural products in the United States. This includes half the nation's supply of fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Over one-third of the food and agricultural products are sent to international markets. Over 250 different types are grown. When we know the actual figures it makes it easier to understand the reason for quarantine laws and regulations. Even though we are led often to believe that the tourist, media, or computer industry is all-important in the state, plants really are the most important. Without food there will be no people!

ENGINEERED . . .
The U.S. Agriculture Department has approved fifty varieties of crops that have been engineered to be resistant to insects, herbicides, or plant viruses. These products when sold in the United States are not identified as genetically altered. There are no known health risks to consumers, but no long-term studies have been conducted. This is the reason that many European Countries have refused to import products containing genetically modified ingredients.

ANTIQUES . . .
"Old" is the in word in the world of garden ornaments and furniture. Ravage and decay are chic for birdbaths, benches, fountains, and statuary—the beauty of real weathering. The real thing is pricey, but many dealers are creating modern artificially rusted or weathered items. In the advertisements no mention was made of termite-eaten patio furniture, real or imitation. So the message is: don't toss out that old stuff you hid at the back of the garden but display it proudly, or if you can find anyone to purchase it, sell it.

THE GARDEN

BY AMOR POIRIER

Whether you have roses, grasses, or vines, a garden is nearby nature. One of the joys of gardening is intimacy with the land. For thousands of years people have cultivated plants in their gardens and witnessed the transformation. During each season the garden calls us to plan, labor, and produce.

Each spring, the gardener meets the garden fresh. It is a season of renewal with the growth of new life. Some perennials will have spread astonishingly, others will have self-seeded tiny sprouts of themselves. Yet others will show no green, until finally you admit that they have been lost to winter's chill. This winter was milder, but in the past here below-freezing temperatures have killed umbrella trees (schefflera), ferns, and even damaged rosemary. Little icicles are on leaves in the morning.

The garden comes alive with summer and awakens with color. Pole beans are racing toward the sky, roses grow leggy, the tomatoes need staking. Summer is a season of fertilizing, mulching, tying, pinching, and pruning. Summer is simply work. There is no formula for working, each gardener's ritual is unique, for it must emerge spontaneously and organically from the gardener's soul.

Fall is fullness and emptiness all at once. Empty fields and empty flower beds stretch out. The garden sleeps and rests.

Many people use their gardens for inspiration, like the famous artist and impressionist Claude Monet, who gardened when he was not painting. His garden became an inspiration for his works.

I love the idea of creating texture and visual interest by mixing up different botanical elements. In my garden, I have combined a cutting garden and a kitchen garden. I grow herbs that I often use for cooking. I find that hanging baskets of herbs are convenient and clean.

I started accumulating perennial flowers three years ago. Over time, I find myself personally favoring flowers on the blue end of the spectrum. My old-time favorite is the blue marguerite, *Felicia*. Pruned back in the winter, it is the first flower to bloom in the spring in my garden. This was the year I developed an appreciation for a white garden. The garden takes on a different transformation at night.

I crave the serenity and presence of water. In my garden, I have incorporated a bird bath with a small marble bowl so birds can land and leave without having to struggle. Below it is the toad's cottage made of a half broken piece of pottery. When I'm in my garden, I feel a sense of peace. I think of my family. I feel connected with the garden because it's really an extension of our home, with little spaces and rooms. It creates an aura of tranquillity. □

Amor was born in the Philippines. For twenty-eight years she and her husband have lived and raised their family in Santee, California. On a standard urban lot, 60 by 100 feet this gardener has created many special areas from a row of indoor herb baskets to a tiny designer's garden with mesclun.

⇐Growing in author's garden: lamb's ears, variegated society garlic, rosemary (on right) Shasta daisies, with golden thyme. A new area. Photograph by the author.

RESCUING CHRYSANTHEMUMS

FALL-BLOOMING CHRYSANTHEMUMS begin to bloom around September 15th in Southern California. If you've selected varieties carefully, your late mums will be opening around Christmas. This article is about ordinary garden decorative mums that you can even buy at grocery stores.

Chrysanthemums can be neglected rather severely and still produce autumn color. This advice is late for this year but maybe not for the late bloomers.

At our house the maltreatment is a result of growing in decomposed granite. Sand gives the same result. This soil dries out very rapidly. Another soil here is heavier native soil, much amended. That area could easily be overwatered in which case the plants would die of fungus. That hasn't happened here, but plants on the heavier soil have died after being denuded of all green on the original and only stems—probably by sow bugs. Both areas are basically in full sun and with attention, support roses, Transvaal daisies, and the usual cottage garden mix.

Mums sold in supermarkets were grown in greenhouses sitting in saucers that catch their irrigation water. That tells us that mums need water. They lose their lower leaves when they get too dry.

Chrysanthemums' need for water explains why, if underwatered, by mid-summer, they can look like sticks with some foliage on top. Everything else in the coarse-soil garden is doing fine—the Santa Barbara daisies, the society garlic, the verbena, and the fox-red curly sedge (*Carex buchananii*). But not the mums. Compared to neighboring plants the gardener has not met their needs.

You can bring about a reasonably happy ending. Starting as late as mid-August, mums can be convinced someone loves them. Focus on them.

Attach a hose to a three dollar y-valve screwed on some faucet to leave one outlet available for other watering. Then:

1. Hand water just the mum each time the soil dries out a bit.
2. Mulch 1-3 inches deep with compost six inches out all around each plant. Be sure to kill the sow bugs in the compost with powdered Sevin (carbaryl).
3. Fertilize gently once a week, or every three days, using a dilute formula. That would be one teaspoon of sulfate of ammonia (a 21% nitrogen formula) stirred well in a gallon of water. **[The standard dilution is 1 tablespoon of fertilizer to a gallon of water. A teaspoon in effect makes a 7% solution.]** Pour only a cup or two on each little chrysanthemum plant. Or, use something like fish emulsion, which is usually 10% nitrogen
4. Stake your puny, floppy plants. It may rain hard enough in November, when mums are their showiest, to push them into the mud. Small stakes and strips of old hosiery work fine. A loose triangle of flowers is pleasant to look at.
5. Continue to feed once or twice a week. By the time you see small buds, it is appropriate to have some phosphorus and potassium in your fertilizer. A little bit of a 12-56-20 or a 6-20-20 formula would be fine.

If you find you like mums in the garden you might take care of them more attentively earlier the next year. Then they will grow lots of basal shoots making thicker plants with more flowers.□ BN

A garden decorative mum leaning through small tomato cages.

PLANTS AU NATUREL: GREEN OAK RANCH NATIVE PLANT NURSERY©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IN A VERY SHORT TIME, the natives will become restless. Since autumn is almost here, the unsung heroes of California's plant kingdom—our wild, sometimes woolly and always wonderful native plants—will be ready to welcome the falling rains. Summer ensembles of listless brown will give way to fall's latest fashions: The beginnings of glorious greens, which eventually will be accented with blooming bursts of pink, purple, yellow, blue, orange—enough excitement and beauty to draw hordes of tourists to places like Antelope Valley and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

In fact, in past years there was so much interest in viewing native plants in bloom, that Anza-Borrego park officials were inspired to provide a desert wildflower hot line with up-to-the-minute information about which desert areas were blazing with color.

It looks like the natives are not only becoming restless; they're also becoming very popular.

NATIVE VERSUS NATURALIZED

We should make a distinction here between the terms "native" and "naturalized."

A native plant is one that has originated in that particular area; in other words, it naturally occurs there.

A naturalized plant is one that has come from another locality, sunk in its roots in the new area, and has made itself at home; for instance, take mustard (*Brassicaceae*). In fact, please take it. Away. All of it. At certain times of the year, it seems like mustard is everywhere. Originally from outside the United States, it is now proliferating wantonly across much of California. It muscles out native plants in many places, and is hard to pull since the roots are determined to reach China the hard way, straight down. To pull up mature plants, you need the strength of Samson (before his hair was styled).

Other weeds that have become naturalized include wild oats (*Avena fatua* and *A. barbata*) and many kinds of thistles (*Asteraceae spp.*).

These all disturb the ecological balance of things and can be blamed for the extinction of some native shrubs, herbs and grasses.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S NATIVE TREASURIES

A landscape entirely comprised of native species is a joy to see, and achieves an aesthetic balance that is not usually present if naturalized plants have invaded.

Some wonderful areas in which you may observe our native plant life are: Oakoasis County Open Space Preserve; Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary; California Nativescapes Botanical Garden at the Wild Animal Park; Quail Botanical Gardens; Mission Trails Regional Park; and the Native Plant Garden in Balboa Park.

THE TIME IS NOW

Although the blooming season for most native plants occurs from winter to late spring, now is the time to consider including some in your own garden. Native plants do best if they are planted during the months of October through December.

A little later in this article, for readers who remain conscious, we'll learn about a very special nursery. Before that, however, here are some reasons why it would be in your best interest to consider a garden au naturel.

HERE IS THE LATEST BUZZ

Hummingbirds and butterflies are drawn to a great variety of native plant species. In addition, beneficial insects such as ladybugs and lacewings—those who prey upon plant eradication specialists like aphids and scale—also enjoy the nectar of many native plants.

Hummers wet their whistles from such nectar-bearing natives as monkey flowers (*Mimulus spp.*), penstemons (*Penstemon spp.*), and fuchsia-flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*).

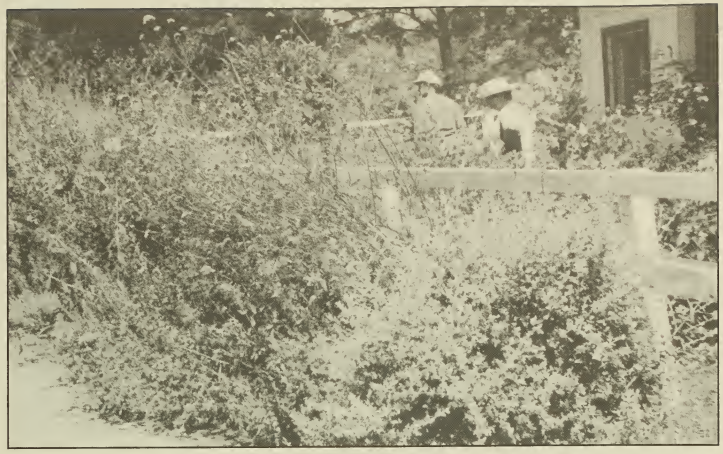
Butterfly adults sip nectar from many of the selfsame plants that hummers patronize. In addition, a large group of native plant species provides food for the caterpillar stage of various butterflies. Butterfly enrapturists know that each species of butterfly caterpillar requires its own type of host plant or plants. For example, a female monarch butterfly will only lay her eggs on milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*). Therefore an avid butterfly gardener may wish to include milkweed in the butterfly garden. At the very special nursery we'll soon discuss, there are several milkweed species being cultivated for sale, such as narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and Indian milkweed (*A. eriocarpa*).

⇒

OTHER REASONS TO GO NATIVE

The article "Going Native" by Janet Marinelli in the July-August issue of *Audubon* magazine says it very well: " . . . creating wild gardens that reflect some of the richness of the country's disappearing woods, wetlands, meadows, and deserts will . . . improve the lot of many plants and animals."

Then there's the money, honey. Plants native to our arid areas don't need much water, thereby enabling us to save on our water bills, thereby enabling us to rush out and shop for more plants.



⇑ *Eye-catching natives form a colorful border at Green Oak Ranch Nursery, photograph by Betty Newton.*

SHOP UNTIL SOMETHING DROPS

There are several native plant sales coming up this fall—one sponsored by the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club (619/487-6661) and the other by the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter (619/685-7321).

However, if you are chomping at the bit somewhere in September and want to sneak a peak at a great collection of natives, visit that special nursery that is called, appropriately enough . . .

GREEN OAK RANCH NURSERY

This is THE PLACE for prospective native plant purchasers. The nursery is part of the Green Oak Ranch Camp and Retreat Center, which is at 1237 Green Oak Road in Vista. The phone number is 760/727-0251. Hours are generally Monday through Saturday, 9AM to 4PM. Eventually the nursery will be open Sunday afternoons as well.

The Green Oak Ranch, in operation since 1950, comprises 142 acres of preserved wilderness and is a haven for hundreds of native California animals and plants. There is a nature center that includes—but of course!—a butterfly garden. Included in the butterfly garden are major butterfly attractors such as goldenrod, elderberry, monkey flower, verbena, milkweed, ceanothus, and the winner of the name game—bladder pod.

Then there is the nursery itself, which offers a huge variety of native plant species at reasonable prices. Posted with each plant type is a card listing cultural requirements. Plants which attract hummingbirds and/or butterflies are delineated by a hummer or butterfly symbol.

The persons who help at the nursery are among the most pleasant, congenial people you will ever meet. If you have a question, they'll make every effort to provide the answer.

And the one responsible for all this, who can generally answer 99.99999% of native plant questions off the top of his head, is Pat Regan, the naturalist who is in charge of the nature center and the nursery. Indeed, it was only through his efforts that there came to be a nursery at all.

Originally, Pat was told by Green Oak administrators, "You can develop the nature center however you want, but there isn't any money to do it."

Easy as pie, right?

Pat said, "To landscape it, we had to grow our own plants, ones like black sage and buckwheat." His Herculean efforts made plants pop up all over the place. Pat said he took some ribbing from the other staff, but once they started to realize that some of the plants were incredibly beautiful, he started hearing requests like, "Could you plant some of those near the dining hall?" and so forth.

Pat began teaching a gardening class to those in the recovery program. At first, no plants were sold; however, plants kept propagating and finally, in the spring of 1996, the operation became certified as a retail nursery.

⇒

PAT'S NATIVE PLANT PICKS

Although some natives get hysterical if they are overwatered, there are others that are quite forgiving. For persons just starting to develop an interest in native plants, Pat recommends the following varieties:

California fuchsia (*Zauschneria californica*) - This herbaceous perennial, a recipient of intense hummingbird attention, has gorgeous red-orange tubular flowers. Pat said, "It makes you look like a master gardener."

Sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) - This monkey flower is a prolific bloomer. Rich apricot-yellow blooms perch on the sticky green leaves over a long period. Monkey flower makes an excellent cut flower. If you've had too much chocolate milk, the flowers seem to resemble the face of a monkey.

Penstemon margarita bop (*Penstemon* 'Margarita Bop') - Abundant purplish flowers bloom on this native perennial, which is a hybrid seedling that showed up, Pat told me, in Bert Wilson's yard. Pat explained that Mr. Wilson is a native plant nurseryman who probably grows more native plant species than anyone in the state. When he names new varieties of plants, Mr. Wilson incorporates the locality in which the plant occurs into the plant title. For example, margarita stands for the town near which the plantsman lives. The mysterious "bop" stands for "bottom of porch," where the new seedling was found.

Pozo blue sage (*Salvia* 'Pozo Blue') - This cultivar withstands a broader range of conditions than most of the species. It tolerates overwatering, and also drought conditions. Pat mentioned that "It can look like death from July to October, but it is long lived." The term "Pozo" refers to the Pozo Mountains, which back up to the property of the aforementioned Mr. Wilson. The flower color is a show-stopping blue-purple, and for sage sniffers, its scent is divine.

Cottonwood (*Populus spp.*) - These are graceful, deciduous trees with leaves that dangle and catch the wind. Cottonwoods grow quickly and are a host plant for the mourning cloak butterfly.

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) - These evergreen oaks, with their majestic presence and wonderful cupped oval leaves, make tree-lovers everywhere sizzle inside. Small, nursery grown, newly planted live oaks (not existing old ones, however) will grow quickly and vigorously if given enough water.

GROWING NATIVE

This fall, on the first Saturday of every month, Pat will be offering classes with an emphasis on habitat gardening. To find out exactly when classes start, call the nursery at 760/727-0251.

LEARNING TO LOVE BROWN

There comes a season (summer) when certain native plants decide to take a break. A good attitude for native-plant gardeners to develop, Pat says, is to learn to love brown. It is natural for many natives to die back in summer when water is scarce, thereby saving their energy so that they can get gorgeous again after the rains start to fall.

Like the rest of us crazy gardeners, Pat has a real passion for plants. "I've been a gardener since beginning to walk. My mom and grandmom came from a long line of gardeners. We lived in an area surrounded by open forest and I loved the dogwoods and would bring them back for my mom," he said. He added that of course now he would propagate dogwood from seed.

So many native plants—so little time. Remember that time is of the essence, since native species are far more likely to thrive when planted in mid-fall, when the rains begin. And we all want our plants to be happy and healthy.

Naturally!□

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

⇐*Growing Grounds at Green Oak Ranch Nursery, Photograph by Pat Regan*

SLIME AWAY

BY CATHERINE L. ZINSKY

SOMETIMES WHILE WORKING IN my garden I actually have a thought. Not often, mind, as part of the pleasure in gardening is in emptying one's mind and being free from even thought. Occasionally I slip. One of my musings was this: if a group of larks is called an exaltation, a cluster of hummingbirds is called a charm, and a herd of rhinos is called a crash, what is a group of snails or slugs called? I call them slime.

I have dogs, so am unable to safely or conscientiously use snail pellets or any other poison, and must therefore resort to manually disposing of the pestiferous critters. It's a laborious, back-bending, time consuming task that I take no joy in—well, maybe some perverse pleasure, especially when I come upon a slime.

When I find a slime, I first unknowingly scowl in disgust (so says my husband), then go at it with a vengeance, delighted that I can annihilate so many at once, thereby easing my task of search and destroy. A gardening class was visiting my garden and one student asked how I killed the snails. The answer gushed out, "I tie their little antennae together." No one even grinned. Seriously, I had to tell them I was joking.

Actually, I smash them with the back of my hand trowel or guillotine them with my Felcos. Gross, I know, but sticking them into a bucket of salt is, in my mind, a slow torturous route. Also, with my method I can leave them where they lay and allow them to decompose back into my soil. They are organic after all, so must contribute some—albeit itsy-bitsy—but *some* small benefit.

It often happens at daybreak. I'll be imbibing my morning coffee when here it comes, pounding in my head, rousing my whole being, the theme song from *Jaws*: da-dump, da-dump. The "call" is upon me and out I go. First I look for snails. I had hammered the previous day. Why? you ask. Because slugs are not only voracious vegetarians, they are carnivores and can often be found having escargot for breakfast. Then I begin my search and destroy routine to a new tune, mentally humming "Wake up little slimer, wake up," to which they respond, "We spill our guts for you." (Hummed to the tune of "I Get No Kicks from Champagne.")

Snails love to hide from the sun in tall grasses or any grass-like foliage such as *Anigozanthos* (kangaroo paw); slugs prefer to slither under flatter leaves, especially those that retain moisture beneath them. With these two sanctuaries in mind I slowly wend my way through the garden. Naturally I don't tackle each and every plant—I have only one life—but I've learned through "exterminating circumstances" which are favorites and zero in on these. I have gone the route of laying out boards and the like, then lifting them the next day and taking care of business, but these traps are not what I would call very aesthetic. Actually they are an eyesore.

I'm told evenings are slime-time as well, but to tell you the truth, I'm generally too beat to beat on anything but my pillow by then.

There are, of course, simpler ways of attending to snails and slugs other than my very personal hands-on treatment. I recently read an article in the San Diego Horticultural Society's newsletter, *Horticopia*, written by board member Steve Brigham about a new product called SLUGGO, a nontoxic iron-phosphate based bait that not only does in slimers, but fertilizes as it decomposes! He didn't mention cost, but I do mean to try it once it hits the local stores. With my luck, my Australian cattle dogs (who will eat almost anything, including grubs from my compost heap and leftover snail shells) will develop a liking for SLUGGO, so I hope it's cheaper than kibble.

So much for my ruminations. Good luck and happy gardening...□

Previously printed in "Horticopia," newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society (membership information 760/630-7307).

Catherine L. Zinsky gardens at about 1900 feet in Crest. She is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications.

SLUG DAMAGE REDUCED BY MORNING WATERING

SNAIL AND SLUG ACTIVITY in gardens is known to be enhanced by the presence of moisture on the soil surface, so Swiss researchers decided to see whether overhead irrigation in the morning (about two hours after sunrise) would result in less slug damage to crop plants

than irrigation in the evening (about one hour before sunset). During the trials, which were conducted during the summer, it was usually warm and dry. Under such conditions, water applied early in the day left the soil surface moist for a much shorter time than did water applied late in the day. And since slugs feed mainly at night, the researchers hypothesized that drier, morning-irrigated soil would allow for less damage to plants (lettuce, in this case).

The researchers' hypothesis was correct—lettuce leaf consumption by slugs when water was applied in the morning was less than one-fifth of the consumption when water was applied in the evening. And leaf consumption with morning watering was almost as low as consumption with evening watering combined with molluscicide treatments (metaldehyde pellets).

Whether this approach to mollusc control will work as well with other garden plants remains to be investigated. It is possible that reduction of soil surface moisture by using drip irrigation might be even more effective than overhead irrigation in the morning. □

Reprinted from "Plants and Gardens News" Volume 14, Number 2, a publication of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn NY 11225. Their source: B. Speiser and M. Hochstrasser, "Slug Damage in Relation to Watering Regime," Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 70(1-3), October 1998, 273-275. (Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., P. O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

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SAFFRON CROCUS

BY BARBARA S. JONES

THE SAFFRON CROCUS, *Crocus sativus*, produces one of the most expensive seasonings in the World. It is an autumn flowering plant and the flower appears before the dull green foliage. The rich lilac flowers have dark purple veins, are about 2 inches long, and range from 1 to 5 inches across when open. The saffron spice is the long, conspicuous, thread-like, three-branched, deep red style.

The reason it is so expensive is because it is a very labor intensive crop and only 5 to 7 pounds can be produced on an acre of land. The price ranges from $2700 per pound for Spanish Saffron to $3700 per pound for Kashmir Indian Saffron. Actually it is not that expensive to use because a little bit goes a long way—1 gram will season from 3 to 10 recipes and cost from $8 to $10 per gram. Turmeric is used often to cut the saffron and reduce the price. (Turmeric is the yellow spice used to make mustard yellow. Mustard is brownish when used alone.)

Saffron crocus will grow in the San Diego area. It needs full sun, water, occasional additions of low N fertilizer, and well drained soil. It is sterile and will increase only by division. Bulblets are available through catalogs and are sometimes carried at local nurseries. □

Barbara Jones is SDFA Historian and has gardened in San Diego for over fifty years.

A GUIDE TO HOUSEPLANT CARE

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

IN MOST HOMES TODAY, there are houseplants. The number of them, the variety, and the location is simple to very complex. Nevertheless, they all need care. Even if it is a simple herb container on the kitchen window sill, or a ten-foot ficus in the living room, they all need care. Indoors horticulture is a more intensive, care-requiring task than growing plants outdoors, simply because plants evolved in an outdoor environment, not in a house. There are at least eight conditions one must address in order to acquire and maintain healthy, pretty, satisfying houseplants. They concern: plant selection, light requirements, humidity, temperature, placement, nutrition, pest and disease control, and potting and repotting. Let's address each subject, one at a time.

PLANT SELECTION—The most important thing to consider before you select your houseplants is to determine where you are going to put them. Then you can choose which plants will fill this niche the best in terms of light, warmth, and humidity. Once you have selected what plants you want where, go to your favorite nursery and select young plants in pots that are not stained with age, do not have plant roots protruding from weep holes, and the roots are not exposed at the top by abrasive watering. Select young healthy plants showing new growth and good green in the leaves. Choose one whose container is the right size at the time of purchase so that you will not have to repot right away.

Bromeliad

LIGHT REQUIREMENTS—All true plants need enough light to carry on the photosynthesis process. There are very few plants that grow in a dark corner. Most will flourish in window setting. Some even need direct sun through a window while others need high intensity without direct sunlight. A light-reflective surface behind a plant usually serves well to increase the amount of light a plant gets. If one or more of the plants have a dormant period, this is when you can move them to a different location where less light is available while they are in their period of dormancy.

HUMIDITY—Ferns, orchids, and most tropical type plants need and thrive in humid conditions. Others which have evolved in more temperate climates can do with much less relative humidity. In winter, the heated house is a very dry place, so you may have to add moisture to the air around moisture-loving plants. To do this, place their containers in another shallow container lined with pebbles and keep standing water to just cover the pebbles. Pay close attention to watering. Feel the soil to see if the plant really needs to be watered. One of the worst problems an indoor plant faces is an over-zealous waterer.

TEMPERATURE—For the most part in San Diego, temperature is not a problem unless we have a Santa Ana condition where the air is very dry and temperature goes up into the 90's. Then the problem still is not so much heat as it is humidity. Close attention to watering is needed and you will find that spraying with a fine mist of water will be beneficial to tender plants.

PLACEMENT—This is a matter more of esthetics. Given sufficient light, the location of the plant or plants is up to you to fit into your decor. Consider the eventual size of the plant so that it will not outgrow its location. Another thing to consider is the ease with which you can clean up a water spill or leak from the plant.

NUTRITION—This and overwatering are the two things that eager, caring indoor gardeners do to excess. A plant will usually tell you if it is not fed correctly, by slow growth, poor blooming, flaccid stems, chlorosis of the leaves, and the worst of all, simply wilting away. It's probably best to use a balanced liquid fertilizer containing all the elements that plants need, and following the manufacturer's instructions.

PEST CONTROL—Indoor plants can be beset by a variety of critters and fungi. Scale, mealybug, thrips, spider mites, and mildew are all out to get your indoor

plants. Remove scale by scraping them off gently with your fingernail. Or, for both scale and mealybug you can use a dilute soap solution that is left on the plant for an hour or so, then washed off. **Soap, not detergent!** A cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol will do them in, too. Use a commercial spray or dip for the other maladies, following the instructions correctly. Take care when spraying that you have plenty of ventilation. Better yet, do it outdoors if possible.

REPOTTING—Healthy plants can outgrow their containers. Repotting is simple. Use a size pot an inch or so in diameter larger than the old one, keeping the removed root ball intact and placing it in the center, slightly raised, of the new pot. Add new potting mix soil and tamp it around the edge gently. After watering, add more soil if necessary. Don't let your plant get pot bound. This will be evidenced by roots coming out from the drain holes, and when removed from the old pot, the roots are very dense with little or no soil evident between the roots. Stunted growth with adequate nutrition is also evidence of a pot-bound plant. A pot-bound plant will not perform as it should even if repotted.

Good luck!□

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Photographs courtesy of California Association of Nurserymen.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR

ADAMSON HOUSE

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 1999

We will have a guided tour of the historical Adamson House and gardens. The architect incorporated hand-carved teakwood doors, hand-wrought filigree ironwork, lead-framed bottle glass windows, hand-painted murals, and lavish use of Malibu Potteries tile in this 1929 Moorish-Spanish Colonial Revival style home. There are several fountains on the grounds, all of which are decorated with this exquisite tile.

The restored gardens contain over 1,000 different plant species, including old trees and shrub, plus, of course, annuals and perennials. Lunch on your own at the Third Street Mall in Santa Monica. A nursery visit will complete our day. Any questions? Call Ann Waters.

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☐**Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road - Carlsbad 8:00AM**

Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO KEEP the area clean. Continue to wipe down the growing area with mild solution of Lysol and water.

TO SPRAY the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plants.

TO LEAVE air space between the plants.

TO KEEP pans of wet pebbles among the plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.

TO USE cool light tubes — keep plants out of direct sunlight.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

TO START withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

TO GIVE a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

TO TAKE cuttings and plant them to increase your collection and to share.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ADJUST watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

TO TRANSPLANT wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

TO REPOT quince, olives, and podocarpus.

TO MOVE deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California so they will not sprout any new growth.

TO FERTILIZE only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

TO WAIT until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CUT new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

TO ALWAYS USE new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

TO MAINTAIN the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

TO WATCH weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

TO TRANSPLANT actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

TO CLEAN the area where plants are grown.

TO PREVENT insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

CAMELLIAS
San Diego Camellia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program during development to keep plants damp but not soggy.

TO SPRAY with Sun-spray ultra fine oil or

Malathion to control insects.
TO START or continue to disbud for better blooms, leaving one bud per cluster or one bud per branch for show quality blooms.
TO CONTINUE feeding with cottonseed fertilizer.
TO APPLY iron and zinc supplement, if indicated by pale foliage with darker green veins.
TO PROTECT plants from full sun to prevent burn.
TO MULCH to keep plants cool.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CLEAN up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.
TO SPRAY to prevent mildew and spider mites.
TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.
TO FEED with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PROTECT plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
TO SPRAY-MIST to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust. Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.
TO PREVENT soil from completely drying out.
TO PROTECT new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.
TO CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.
TO GIVE plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO REMOVE dead fronds.
TO PLANT spores of all varieties.
TO PROTECT from hot sun, but give maximum light.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp but not soggy.
TO FERTILIZE once with high nitrogen fertilizer.
TO CHECK for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present, use Malathion-50.
TO KEEP snails, pill bugs and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CONTINUE periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
TO OPERATE drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.
TO PRUNE out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
TO COVER maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
TO CHECK on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

FUCHSIAS
San Diego Fuchsia and Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PICK off spent blooms and seed pods.
TO MAINTAIN humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning or in the cool of evening.
TO CONTINUE fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.
TO SPRAY as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.
TO MAKE cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.
TO KEEP cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME
TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Use caution when watering commercial plants grown in coir (coconut fiber). It will appear dry on the surface although the center is still moist. These

plants are easily overwatered.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use less than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

TO BEGIN pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scenteds, and similar types at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

TO MAKE cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

TO KEEP all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO HARVEST and dry ginkgo leaves, yerba mansa roots, rose hips, lemon grass leaves, vitex berries, comfrey roots, fennel seeds, coral bell roots, ...

TO DRY flowers for bouquets and wreaths. Include roses, lavender, sweet annie, statice, yarrow...

TO PRUNE back dried leaves and dried flowers of the summer flowering perennials—day lily, lily of the nile, foxglove, feverfew, mullein, mint, sage, thyme.

TO AMEND the garden with fresh compost.

TO PLANT saffron bulbs, mints, parsley, calendula, rosemary, lavender,...

TO WALK through your herb garden after the first rain and inhale the wonderful scents that you have planted.

IRIS
San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN beds and discard old fans and debris.

TO DIVIDE and plant clumps of bearded irises.

TO FEED established tall bearded that are not being divided.

TO PLANT beardless irises: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools or in swampy conditions.

TO PLANT Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO GET ready for fall planting. Plants will be available in October and early November at various sales throughout the state.

TO HAVE the location selected and the ground prepared making sure that the drainage is good for the drought-tolerant natives. If you have a boggy area, consider *Anemopsis, Mimulus guttatus,* or *M. cardinalis*. These are all water loving natives.

TO INCREASE the watering schedule as our normal rainfall period approaches. When watering, always make sure that the water goes down below the roots. Drought tolerance is based on deep rooting, which is based on infrequent deep waterings.

TO DIG holes twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant you are putting in. Then mix a good potting soil 50-50 with native soil. Water well when planting and again in 2-3 days to insure that there are no air pockets around the roots.

TO FERTILIZE with a weak solution. I find that ½ strength is about right for the natives.

TO REMOVE weeds. Natives find it difficult to compete with weeds, which rob the soil of nutrients and water.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO STAY alert for Santa Ana winds with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this debilitating period will help plants, including orchids.

TO START Nobile *Dendrobium* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When the leaves drop from your Nobile *Dendrobium*, stop fertilizing and watering —just keep the pot damp over winter and protect from total freeze. When the new leaves start in spring, after plants flower, resume watering.

TO WATCH *Paphiopedilum* during hot dry days. Remember this is a transition period (we may see a rapid decline in warm weather in October). *Paphiopedilum* and other non-bulbous orchids have no water storage capacities and must be misted more at this time than at any other.

TO WATCH for snails and slugs—see your local nursery person for the latest in pest control. Keep a sharp watch for red spider—they grow and multiply during this time of year. When spraying, get under the leaves—that is where they congregate. Use insecticides

that are non-petroleum based. Again, see your nursery person for proper application.

TO MIST seedlings and other plants early in the morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaves. Also, when watering your *Phalaenopsis*, try to water in the early part of the day. *Phalaenopsis* and other Vandacious orchids can take a great amount of light if the leaves are cooled by generous air movement to take the heat away from the hot leaves. Cold water on warm leaves will cause tissue to break down and die.

TO SHUT down the swamp cooler when the weather cools at the end of October. Drain the bottom and unplug the unit. Oil the motor and the oil cups on the fan. Patch any holes in the bottom with a patching compound. Check the water pump and cover for the winter.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REEVALUATE your rose garden and plan for removal of those bushes that have been less than satisfactory after several growing seasons.

TO MAINTAIN a clean garden by removing twiggy, dead, or diseased growth and reduce canes that are leggy and out of proportion to the plant. Remove any diseased leaves, paint any cuts the size of pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that may appear.

TO REFRESH mulch as needed to keep weeds under control and maintain moisture; feed with organics—the warm soil and organics will work wonders to revitalize your bushes. You will be rewarded with beautiful fall roses. Continue to water deeply by flooding the basin.

TO LEARN to adjust to varying weather conditions, such as Santa Ana winds. Maintain moisture level in ground and keep foliage clean by washing down early in the morning.

TO VISIT fall flower shows and/or gardens whenever the opportunity arises to observe plants during their fall bloom, often the most beautiful of the year.

TO REALIZE that all roses vary in their growth habits, color, form, and quality of bloom based upon the locale where they are planted. Roses grown in coastal communities seldom do as well in areas in East County where heat and dry conditions will provide a completely different environment. The moist coastal climate will produce excessive mildew on some varieties. New introductions frequently produce large plants (6 to 7′ tall). Is your garden suitable for a bush of that size?

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

TO PREPARE soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

TO BUY seed of short-day onions like 'Grano', 'Granex', and 'Crystal Wax', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

TO DIG sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper, and store close to 60°F.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS
from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet William, pansy and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips—alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in Oct.), delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and wildflowers.

IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THE ABOVE, ALSO SUGGESTED (by Hortus "the art of gardening", 284 East Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena CA) ARE: **NATIVES—** *Ceanothus* 'Concha', *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) 'Howard McMinn', *Salvia apiana*, *Romneya coulteri* (matilija poppy), and *Penstemon spectabilis*. **—WILDFLOWERS—** *Clarkia amoena* and *unguiculata*, Flanders Field poppy, larkspur (*Consolida ambigua* and *C. regalis*), and scarlet flax.

LILY PONDS

BY BARBARA S. JONES

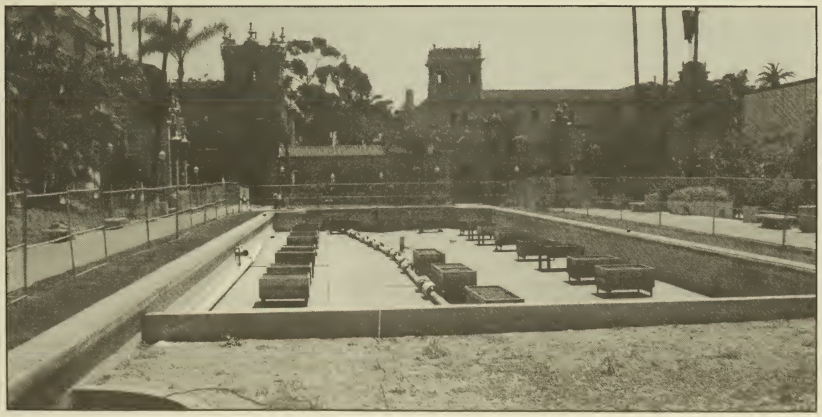
LOTUS AND WATERLILIES FLOURISH in warm weather. September, one of the warmest months in the San Diego area, is still a good time to purchase plants (when they are on sale) for your pool—although they may become dormant in a short time. (March is the best month to plant.) Gardeners formerly had to construct permanent inground pools to enjoy water gardening, but now many shapes of preformed plastic pools—from small to large—are available inexpensively. These pools can be used in or above ground. Waterlilies and lotus require a water depth of 15 to 18 inches. They are usually planted in pots in the pool and some pools have built in pots.

If space is limited, water plants can be grown in large containers. The beautifully painted ceramic Chinese fish bowls can be used indoors or on a small balcony or patio. If the water is not deep enough there are floating plants such as the water hyacinth that has a beautiful bluish purple flower. Tiny floating ferns can be grown in very shallow containers.

Water does not have to be circulated or filtered. If approximately 75% of the surface is covered with plants, algae will be prevented. Small larvae-eating fish or even feeder goldfish will prevent your pool from becoming a mosquito breeding ground.

Waterlily pools have been constructed for a long time. Historic records show that in 1225 BC Ramses III had waterlily ponds. The Chinese had them in the third century and the naturalist, romantic pool became popular in Europe in the eighteenth century.

One of the most famous and photographed pools in the San Diego area is the lily pool in Balboa Park built for the 1915 Exposition. Because of leaks and problems with the filtering system it was drained in March and reopened in July. Ever wonder what is down below? The upper 50,000 gallon pool was opened in June. Waterlilies were planted in plastic tubs that were raised to the proper height by cement blocks. When the pool had to be drained, the plants in plastic tubs stayed. The back of the upper pool is planted with bog plants. The old wooden plant boxes are still in place and used in the lower 250,000-gallon pool. The gravel shown in both of the pools is part of the filtering system. Plans for the reopened pools do not include goldfish but thousands of larvae-eating mosquitofish, gambusia, have been added. □



DISCOVERING ANNUALS
Graham Rice

Portland, Timber Press, 1999, 192 pages, 214 color photos, 10¼" x 10¼", hardcover, $34.95

Did you ever think of eucalyptus or pelargoniums as annuals to be planted by seed to enhance your garden for just one season? Probably not, but then why not! This noted English garden writer presents annuals, grown from seed, as colorful seasonal additions to perennial gardens and if that idea appeals to you, there are many wonderful descriptions and color photos of new varieties that might have caught your interest in seed catalogs. Cosmos, poppies, and coreopsis in many shades of yellow and red, unusual stock varieties in many colors and shapes, and elegant clarkia species are just some of the annuals that Rice features. The photos provide good ideas for attractive plant combinations, which might be translated in these parts into ideas for container gardening.

Although the text is directed toward gardeners in the United States, soil conditions, temperatures, and exposure are not referred to in the individual plant descriptions. This information is contained in a separate chapter at the end of the book with full directions for planting the seeds, thinning, and transplanting into the garden. So while much of the text might not be too relevant to Southern California, the concept of exploring new varieties and adding constant change to the landscape could be an incentive for more adventurous gardening.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PESTS OF THE GARDEN AND SMALL FARM: Grower's Guide to Using Less Pesticide
Mary Louise Flint

Berkeley, Univ. of Calif. Press, 1999, 286 pages, 250 color photos, 100 line drawings, 8½" x 11", softcover, $35

This revised edition of *Pests of the Garden and Small Farm* adapts integrated pest management techniques to the needs of the home gardener. This book's intent is to minimize the use of broad spectrum pesticides. Alternatives are encouraged such as: biological control, resistant varieties, traps and barriers, soaps, oils, changing planting, and irrigation procedures.

The earlier work was prepared for the average-sized commercial growers to aid in reducing the use of pesticide on their farms. This revised edition is aimed at small-scale farmers and organic growers. The focus of the book is on food-producing plants but most methods can be adapted to manage pests on ornamentals.

An excellent reference book, it contains seven chapters of detailed information, graphs, and colored photos for identification purposes of common insects, mites, nematodes, weeds, and diseases. A list of publications available through the University, a glossary, and index complete this extensive and thorough reference title.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING SALVIAS
John Sutton

Portland, Timber Press, 1999, 160 pages, 7¼" x 9¾", 70 color photos, 10 line drawings, hardcover, $29.95

With the increasing interest in creating the perennial garden to provide year round beauty and interest made possible in our Mediterranean climate, this book will be a welcome asset and offers complete information about salvias. Well known by many gardeners for use as herbal and culinary plants, the author provides complete details about their ability to enhance all areas of the perennial garden. Included are the variety of colors, length of blooming period, texture of foliage, aroma (both good and bad), all aspects of the subject, botany, history, cultivation, and uses as annual, herbaceous perennials and/or shrubs.

Of special interest is the material provided by well-known salvia enthusiasts in various areas of the gardening world about special aspects of this genus in their own locale. The West Coast story is written by Betsy Clebsch with special focus on the Strybing Arboretum and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Her book, *A Book of Salvias*, also published by Timber Press was reviewed in the September-October 1997 issue. In addition to the excellent glossary, appendices include salvias for rock gardens, suggested titles to read, and lists of sources of plants from various countries. This volume goes far beyond the norm in providing all-inclusive information for this genus on a wide basis of planting areas.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

BETH CHATTO'S GREEN TAPESTRY
Beth Chatto

HarperCollins UK, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 1999, 192 pages, 250 color photos, 9¼" x 9¾", softcover, $27.50

Tapestry is exactly the right word for the depth and strength of Beth Chatto's unique approach to garden design. Taking a new approach to the traditional English perennial garden, she bases her planting schemes on the needs of the plants themselves, and not just the eye of the beholder. She keeps appearance in mind, but her main focus is on soil conditions and exposure, finding combinations of plants that will not only survive but enhance each other's elements of color, texture, and form.

Now one of England's foremost gardening authorities, Chatto describes her pathway to progress as based on necessity and her husband's application of "plant ecology" to the

conditions of wet and dry clay and/or sand in what once was "a wasteland," and is now their East Anglia garden. Her text is the kind of informal tour that gardeners give to interested visitors, describing what the various sections were like, what was done to enhance them, and what is growing there now. The transformation began with a certain amount of grading and filling and a huge amount of composting that continues on a regular basis. Beautiful color plates of both near and distant views make the tour that much more meaningful. Details are provided by small botanical drawings in the margins of the text.

Although Chatto describes her environment as dry, with a relatively low rainfall for England, only her Mediterranean garden contains plants appropriate for Southern California. Many of her favorite plants, such as bergenias, gunnera, hellebores, hostas, and ferns, are featured in two page spreads that intersperse the main text. However, a complete list of plants and descriptions is at the end. The main value of the book for local gardeners would be the examples, so well illustrated, of planting for variety of compatible textures and contrasting forms. Chatto's philosophy of trial and error, plus the excitement of constant change, will be welcomed by gardeners who love challenges and the joy of new gardening discoveries.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

COMPLETE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS: A Treasury of Verse and Prose
Sheila Pickles

Pavilion Books Limited, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 1999, 184 pages, 6½"x 9½", 150 color reproductions of nineteenth century paintings and illustrations, hardcover, $24.95

Throughout history flowers have been rich in symbolism but the Victorians enlarged the practice. "Inspired by a book entitled *Le Language des Fleurs* by a French woman, Madame de la Tour, the Victorians practiced the new floral code with the same dedication with which they built their cities and furnished their houses." The author explains the reasons that a certain meaning was given to plants and flowers. The text for each plant is accompanied with a colored reproduction of a Victorian painting often with the described plant, and appropriate poetry. It is an interesting book, a good browser.

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

GROWING SOUTH AFRICAN INDIGENOUS ORCHIDS
Karen H. K. Woodrich

Rotterdam, Netherlands, A. A. Balkema Publishers, 1997, 280 pages, 94 color plates, 98 b&w photos, 8¼" x 11¼", hardcover, $85

This excellent book will interest any orchid hobbyist, from those new to orchids, to the serious collector and hybridizer. Within its pages is contained a multitude of information on the proper care, cultivation, and propagation of this most beautiful and diverse group, which contains over 430 different species. Sections cover habitat classification, climate classification, water quality, pests, and diseases.

The full-color photographs of the orchids found throughout the book are of exceptional quality and show the fine details of each plant's flowers. For anyone wishing to begin collecting or adding to their collection, this book is an exceptional source of information. Each species within its genera is broken down into separate sections depending on in which climate zone it naturally occurs, and its specific cultural requirements are discussed in detail.

For the more advanced hobbyist there are chapters on building your seed sowing box and laminar flow cabinet. Also, one will find descriptions of how to self-pollinate the different South African species, a seed ripening timetable chart and propagation procedures of plants both by seed and tissue culture. The different seed sowing media formulations are also discussed, and a chart is included indicating which media should be used for each separate species.

Reviewed by Marlyn Lanoue

SHORTER DICTIONARY OF GARDENING
Michael Pollock and Mark Griffiths, in association with The Royal Horticultural Society

Macmillan UK, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 1999, 836 pages, 8" x 11", 115 color photos, line drawings & diagrams throughout, hardcover, $65

This is a comprehensive, easy-to-use source to every phase of gardening and horticulture. There are descriptions of over 1900 genera, and references to little-known aspects of gardening and horticulture, and explanations of practical details of the gardening craft. The authors, artists, photographers all are known authorities in their field, so this book is really a treasure of information. It is easy to read and a delight to browse.

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

EASY CONTAINER GARDENING, EASY HANGING BASKETS AND WINDOW BOXES, and **EASY PATIOS AND SMALL GARDENS**
Richard Jackson & Carolyn Hutchinson

HarperCollins UK, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 1999, 128 pages, 7½" x 10½", 240 color photos, softcover, $14.95

These three books were each originally published in hardcover, the first in 1996, the second in 1998 and the third in 1997. These softcover editions are part of the Easy Gardening Series published by HarperCollins. Richard Jackson is associated with Britain's Meridian TV's "Grass Roots" gardening series.

The first two complement one another, but also overlap a bit in their coverage. Each discusses both hanging baskets and window boxes. *Easy Container Gardening* has, in addition, thirty-four pages on gardening in "Pots and Tubs." *Easy Hanging Baskets and Window Boxes* has much more detailed information on the sequential steps in the actual planting. It also covers mossed, wire hanging baskets, flower towers, flower pouches, plastic hanging baskets, flower balls, and Babylon bowls. Each book also recommends what the authors consider "top plants" for containers. The third book *Easy Patios and Small Gardens* covers design, bricks and mortar, boundaries and screens, plantings, furnishings, and a seven page section on making life easier.

These guides are informative, and written in a very direct manner with little extra verbiage. They are illustrated with step-by-step photos and include many helpful tips. The price, $14.95, makes the purchase of one or more very tempting.

Reviewed by R. Cox

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October 19, 1999

5:45 p.m.
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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Thelma O'Reilly 670-0830
10942 Sunray Place
La Mesa CA 91941-7241
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members
BONSAI
HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Lit Phan
4551 El Cajon Boulevard
San Diego CA 92115-4316
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)
10:30 am, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information Telephone 699-8776
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting
BROMELIAD
BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Robert Vitacco 469-3539
9137 Dillon Drive
La Mesa CA 91941-4230
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Patti Parker 461-2950
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego CA 92138-3996
4th Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed
NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Morlane O'Donnell 422-8168
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building, Quail Gardens
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840
Escondido CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Tom Demerritt 858-270-5544
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado
CAMELLIA
SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Jay Vermilya 449-0945
2129 Hillslake Drive
El Cajon CA 92020-1019
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego CA 92129-1116
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EPIPHYLLUM
SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Phil Peck 491-9495
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego CA 92112-6127
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN
SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Bob Halley 858-272-1019
1714 Malden Street
San Diego CA 92109-2206
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT
CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Pres: Jose Gallego 697-4417
8673 Warmwell Drive
San Diego CA 92119-1424
4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS
SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND
SHADE PLANT SOCIETY
Pres: Leila Calamari 232-8232
P. O. Box 620776
San Diego CA 92162-0776
2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM
SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Cynthia Lohry 469-8936
1560 Primera Street
Lemon Grove CA 91945-4302
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HEMEROCALLIS
SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: John Bruce
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May
Quail Gardens

HERB
HERB CLUB
Pres: Judy Dunning 579-0222
200 Highline Trail
El Cajon CA 92021-4082
2nd Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

HOYA
SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP
c/o: Harriette Schapiro 858-273-4267
5217 Cassandra Lane
San Diego CA 92109-1314
North County 760-758-4290

IRIS
SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES
IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Steve Rocha 760-788-1423
E-mail: srocha@pacbell.net
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May/
Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr,
18402 West Bernardo Drive, RB
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Gerald Snyder 818-352-7018
7855 Ellenbogen Street
Sunland CA 91040-2213
1st Thu - 7:30 pm -
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Cindy Burrascono 685-7321
P. O. Box 1390
San Diego CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Sharon Smildens
13310 Starmount Way
Poway CA 92064-2119
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo
Library (new), 2nd floor
ORCHID
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF
AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Ardell Marlin 760-753-6952
310 Seeman Drive
Encinitas CA 92024-2840
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Fred Weber 982-9128
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego CA 92176-1020
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC
BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Bernadette Mingus 858-278-4688
3335 Budd Street
San Diego CA 92111-5019
4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

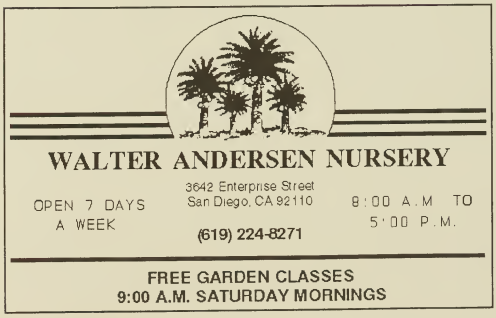
ROSE
EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Jack Shoultz 440-4174
668 N. Pierce Street
El Cajon CA 92020-3046
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Stephen Kepics 235-0004
P. O. Box 86124
San Diego CA 92138-6124
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
Jan/Feb - 4th Mon

TREES
PEOPLE FOR TREES
Library 234-TREE
P. O. Box 505 FAX 687-0151
San Diego CA 92112-0505
4th Tue - 6:30 pm, 743 Imperial Avenue

WATER GARDEN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN
SOCIETY
Pres: Carol Forman 858-278-2774
3761 Hatton Street
San Diego CA 92111-4102
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:
Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor *California Garden*, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4753. Call 232-5762. Deadline for Nov-Dec issue: Sep. 15, 1999.

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



San Diego & Imperial Counties
Iris Society
Annual Rhizome Sale
Hundreds of varieties
Casa Del Prado Courtyard
Balboa Park
September 12, 1999 - 10 AM til sold out

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

BASKETRY, CRAFT, FLOWER ARRANGING, AND WREATH CLASSES

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK
9:30AM to 2:30PM
Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided
Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182

PLEASE PREREGISTER!

APPALACHIAN BASKET CLASS

Beginners Welcome!
Tuesday, September 14
Instructor, Martha Rosenberg
Natural Plant Material, Everything Furnished
Fee $20.

JAPANESE CRAFT

Tuesday, September 21
Instructor, Marie Walsh
Fee $10. Bring a smooth stone that you can hold in the palm of your hand, other supplies furnished.

SUCCULENT WREATH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, September 28
Instructor, Kathy Walsh
FEE $40-member $45-nonmember. All materials furnished.

PINE NEEDLE - JACARANDA COIL BASKET CLASS

Tuesday October 5
Instructors, Martha Rosenberg, Kathy Walsh
All materials supplied, including additional assorted coiling items.
FEE $25-members, $30-nonmembers.
Limit of TEN students

TWO FULL DAY FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

Tuesdays, October 12 and 19
Instructor, Velma West
FEE $30 for series
Limit of FIFTEEN students
Call Marie Walsh to preregister, 619/298-5182

CREATIVE USE OF FRESH PLANT MATERIAL FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

Tuesday, October 26
Instructors, Martha, Kathy, Marie, and Dorothy
Plant materials (palm, flax, ti, hala leaves, etc.) furnished. **FEE** $30,
Preregister with Marie Walsh at 619/298-5182

THREE-RING BASKET CLASS

Tuesday, November 2
Instructors, Martha, Kathy, Marie, and Dorothy
All natural material furnished
FEE $25 member, $30 nonmember

BASKETRY 101 - MAKE-UP CLASS

Tuesday, November 9
Instructors, Martha, Kathy, Marie, and Dorothy
Bring an unfinished or old basket and renew it.
HAVE A FUN DAY!
FEE $5

CREATIVE CLASS WITH PALM SKELETONS

Tuesday, November 16
Instructor, Velma West
Palms supplied.
FEE $20,

MAKE ARRANGEMENT FOR HOLDAY OF YOUR CHOICE

Tuesday, November 23
Instructor, Velma West
All flowers, vase, ferns, supplies, etc., furnished
FEE $50,

FLOWER ARRANGING, BASKETRY, CRAFT, AND WREATH

- ☐ Appalachian Basket $20
- ☐ Japanese Craft $10
- ☐ Succulent Wreath for the Holidays $40 or $45-nonmembers
- ☐ Pine Needle - Jacaranda Coil Basket $25 or $30-nonmembers
- ☐ Two Day Flower Arranging $30 for series
- ☐ Creative Use of Fresh Plant Material for Flower Arranging $30
- ☐ Three-Ring Basket $25 member, $30 nonmember
- ☐ Basketry 101, Make-up class $5
- ☐ Creative Class with Palm Skeletons $20
- ☐ Make Arrangement for Holiday of Your Choice $50

Amount enclosed $ . . . . . Make check payable to San Diego Floral Association. SEND TO: San Diego Floral Assoc., 2125 Park Blvd., San Diego CA 92101-4753

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FRED MEYER 1953-1999

BY BETTY NEWTON

Fred Meyer in 1989.

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a little boy who really saw the plants around him; he focused on them to an unusual degree. At age three, at Grandmother's in Anaheim, he planted a row of daffodils. At five he was asking neighbors the names of each of their flowers. And he looked at flower books seriously. By ten he was responsible for the family vegetable garden in the Salinas Valley.

The boy, born in 1953, lived in a warm, close family. His parents were children of two immigrant couples. His dad's parents left Germany in the 1880s to farm in Nebraska. His mother's parents fled the Mexican Revolution of 1911. They named this their first son Fred W. Meyer after his paternal grandfather. His father LaVern and mother Estella always supported his interests—even when he made some odd requests—because that is the way they were. The child had and maintained a particularly pleasant personality and lovely smile.

By the time Meyer was eleven he was collecting seeds from everywhere and raising them. Trips to visit the old family areas in Guadalajara, Mexico, were a chance to get more unusual seeds. His grandfather gave him his first greenhouse kit when he was fifteen and his father helped him put it up. Within the year, he was hybridizing, dabbing pollen on delicate parts of cattleya orchids. ("A good plant to learn on," friend Linda Teague later said.) While still a teenager he grew a collection of so many different species of coral trees (*Erythrina*) he impressed experts. Weimea Arboretum in Hawaii later accepted and planted out the collection.

Meyer's dad made a living for the six children doing everything from fishing to producing fertilizer, raising 300 acres of wheat and corn in the Chino Valley, and later establishing a hunting club that attracted Hollywood celebrities.

What do you do with such a focused, deliberate kid? They gave him his head, treated Fred like an adult. When he said, at nineteen, "Dad, I plead with you, don't plant avocados at our new ranch on Mountain Meadow Road (Escondido); put in proteas. There will be a good market for them as cut flowers." His dad had him plant twenty-five acres of proteas.

After high school, where he got A's and B's (science and math were his strong suit), two years at Palomar College, and a year at Cal Poly at San Louis Obispo, his family sent Fred up to Santa Barbara to plant and manage a hundred acres of avocados, citrus, cherimoya, and protea. The family must have been doing well for they had just bought the 1600-acre ranch belonging to the Beach Boys. (To Thom Meyer, six years younger, his big brother Fred, with his blond hair and laid-back manner, always seemed a Beach Boy himself.)

It was Meyer's nature to share. Meyer and Randy Baldwin (now general manager and a partner in the corporation that owns San Marcos Growers in Santa Barbara) became friends and later partners. Baldwin reminisces, "We were using the land there for growing cut flowers. Fred became an expert in all he touched. He was a great person to tell you who to talk to."

"When I first knew him, he had Restionaceae (the restio family, rush-like plants). We envisioned it as a filler for arrangements. A plant closely related is now a kind of rage plant in the trade, *Chondropetalum tectorum*. It resembles horsetail, *Equisetum*, without the obnoxious spreading...a dark green sedge with banded joints." Fred also introduced him to many different kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos*) that he was growing on the ranch.

And proteas, *Leucodendron,* and *Leucospermum* (pin cushion or rocket plants). "He had Margaret Jones (a well known nurserywoman in Australia) send us twelve different kinds of New Zealand flax (*Phorium).* We envisioned growing it as cut foliage at first and sent it off to Seattle and Chicago. Now, as you know, San Marcos Growers is quite well known for all the varieties we grow" (as garden plants).

"When the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society was having a benefit sale for the Francheschi Park Project," Baldwin continued, "he gave us coral tree seed from his magnificent collection. (Twenty-six different species were offered at that sale). He had Roger Elliot, [of television fame and author of *The Encyclopedia of Australian Plants*] send rooted cuttings of new plants from his nursery in Australia."

Fred, twenty, continued to satisfy his huge appetite for plants. He became interested in bulbs ("bulbous material" people in the trade would say). He started a huge *Hippeastrum* collection—up to 40,000 plants at one time. To you and me these are hybrid Dutch amaryllis known by their 7 to 8-inch flowers. He liked the smaller ones and even developed a lavender.

He must have had contacts all over the world by then because he got seeds from everywhere and sent seeds everywhere, but it did not satisfy him. He had to go looking for new species himself. His goal was not to introduce wild species but to bring in through cross breeding certain qualities that individual wild forms might have.

In 1980, he went to Australia and explored for the first time. In 1981, he organized and funded an expedition in South America. From a plant breeder's point of view he got rich treasure. Southern California gardeners over the next fifteen years acquired the evergreen, large-flowered pink and lavender that became known as Meyer *Alstroemeria.*

Other Meyer hybrids are in our future. Sometimes Linda Teague sees Meyer's cross of *Nerine* and *Amaryllis belladonna* (naked lady) called "*Amarine*" in the background on a table in soap operas. It's coming.

Can you be patient gardeners? You have his first *Alstroemeria.* His dwarf yellow variety is in nurseries now. Fred told me he had only four species to work with while developing the first improved alstroemerias. After his last collecting trips he had sixty-three species. His tongue rippled off the qualities: these included black ones, thin spider forms, and fragrant kinds.

Meyer's friend, noted kangaroo paw breeder Australian Angus Stewart, wrote, "Fred loved the challenge and discovery of plant collecting around the world. He was a free spirit who delighted in his eclectic adventures on every continent, whether it be collecting *Limonium* in the Mediterranean, wild *Petunia* in Brazil,

A table of thirty-one-year-old Fred Meyer's foliage plants from Australia, grown for the cut-flower trade.

red and green kangaroo paws in Badgingarra, Western Australia, or wild tuberose in Mexico....His philanthropy in this area was legendary as he fulfilled what he saw as his responsibility to record and pass on his knowledge to the scientific community."

The cut-flower market needed the plants of Meyer's imagination: always longer, lighter stems and fragrant in vivid colors. The results of his work on *Gladiolus* was a fragrant winter-blooming flower with smaller flowers spread out on the stem. "Ethereal," says one arranger. They are available now in Israel and Belgium.

"I remember when he first brought me the pink kangaroo paw later called 'Pink Joey'. He wanted to discard it...thought it a namby-pamby color, whereas I loved it," said friend Linda Teague. "Fred always wanted vivid colors. He thought subtle colors were boring!"

The world became his stage. And yet most readers will not recognize the names of those people he worked with over the next twenty-five years. You simply don't get famous working for the world's largest seed company; or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture indexing virus on *Gladiolus* (allowing them to be shipped to other countries), or as an agent "trialing out" hybridizers' achievements, or teaching plant physiology and horticulture for decades in Israel. If I list Meyer's colleagues' names they will mean little.

Meyer died prematurely at age 45, May 1999, at his family home in Escondido. **Some who knew him well claim that his was the greatest plant mind in the world in the last half of this century.** He learned from every expert or experienced plant person he met.

Living close to his home on Mt. Meadow Road in his formative years were three particularly notable plant people: Howard Asper, Sr. of camellia and protea fame (long associated with Descanso Gardens); Paul Hutchison, botanist with UC Berkeley, collector and owner of Tropic World Nursery; and famed USDA botanist Dr. Howard Scott Gentry.

Through Hutchison, teenage Meyer met cut-flower grower Bill Teague, just ten years older. They would drive in from Teague's home in Chino to Southern California Horticultural Society meetings. Meyer showed Teague a bamboo he had grown that was not yet described in reference books. Apparently he talked Teague's arm off. Bill reported to Hutchison, "He says so much and talks so fast, sometimes I don't know whether to believe him or not." Hutchison replied, "By God, believe him!"

Here are two appreciations from prestigious associates, R. Mitchel Beauchamp, author of *A Flora of San Diego County, California*, and Dr. Harold Koopowitz, director of the Arboretum of the University of California at Irvine:

National City, California
May 26, 1999

The selection of plant materials beneficial to mankind has been achieved by only a special, small group of individuals. The legacies of Robert Fortune, David Fairchild, E.H. Wilson. George Forrest, F. Kingdom Ward, Paul Hutchison, and Howard Scott Gentry are well chronicled. These people developed a strong base for our horticultural and economic botany industries today. (continued)

Leucospermum

Among these late, great plantsmen must now be placed my friend, Fred Meyer.

I came to know Fred, his parents and siblings, as I served as editor of *Herbertia*, the international bulb journal. Fred was developing *Hippeastrum* (amaryllis) hybrids and involved with field work in South America. His collection in Escondido of *Hippeastrum* species and hybrids was without parallel. He used it to develop hybrids that are now on the market through the Dutch bulb trade. But he had a great eye for other novel horticultural materials, particularly that which served well as cut flowers. I recall a *Solanum* he grew and sold whose fruit looked just like little pumpkins which formed, fortuitously, at the end of October!

He was always asking me about the local flora. He had a special clone of *Allium praecox* that was very promising, except for the odor. He was even planning to use somehow our puny, native *Petunia* in some hybridization work.

He was part of the international horticultural industry and any foreign visitors involved with plants visiting the region usually ended up seeing Fred, either at his greenhouses or remote growing areas or at his parent's spacious home, which served as office and research center.

Fred had a lot of ideas on how to develop new and wonderful plant cultivars. He has left us a legacy as a reminder of his gift of horticulture. Our lives are much greater because of him.

R. Mitchel Beauchamp
Pacific Southwest Biological Services, Inc.

Irvine, California
June 7, 1999

Fred Meyer was as close to a genius as anyone I ever met associated with the plant world. He had a phenomenal appetite for information about plants and an amazing ability to recall that information. This was combined with a boundless enthusiasm and great energy, if not impatience to get things done. Fred was a resource, if there was something about plants one needed to know, he was the man, either giving you the information instantly or helping locate it. Fred was the modern global man with a web of international friends and ties.

I knew him for nearly two decades and during that time we worked quite closely on several projects. He had a keen interest in the activities at the UCI Arboretum and kept a close watch on our work in endangered bulbous plants.s He funded a collecting expedition to Chile and helped financially with several other projects. We had a joint project on breeding *Ornithogalum* and in a 4 year period accomplished the equivalent of 12 years of breeding work. We also collaborated very closely on an enormous Gladiolus breeding project incorporating genes from wild species into the newest modern hybrids. Multicolored, scented and thin-stemmed cut-flower gladiolus resulted and some of these have now been introduced into the trade. For many years he was an active worker on the Board of the Friends of the UCI Arboretum. He was also on the board for the International Bulb Society, during a difficult time in that organization's life, and even arranged and paid for one issue of the Herbertia.

One of Fred's chief loves was *Hippeastrum* and he assembled one of the world's best collections of species and hybrid cultivars in that genus. He worked extensively breeding the smaller multi-flowered varieties. But he made his mark in other directions as well.

The Meyer Alstroemerias are a tribute to his keen eye for good flowers and before his death he was deeply involved with *Petunia*s and their relatives the *Copiabroa*s. He spent many months down in Brazil collecting wild species of *Hippeastrum*s, *Petunia*s and *Copiabroa*s. He loved visiting that county and leaves many friends down there too.

A few weeks before his death we had a long phone conversation. We recalled some of our past activities and we both decided that the International Conference on Bulbous and Cormous Plants held at UCI, by the UCI Arboretum and International Bulb Society, in 1989 probably would go down as the highlight of our careers. Somehow we were able to bring conservation biologists, plant scientists, commercial bulb growers and serious amateurs together and get it all to work smoothly. Much of the kudos for this rests with Fred, not only was he very generous in financial matters but he also worked tirelessly to make the conference the great success that it was.

Although we had occasional differences for the most part we were able to share and discuss those confidential matters that are only privy to very close friends. Fred was extremely good natured and generous, although he got into trouble occasionally when his enthusiasm over ran his good sense and he made promises that were difficult to keep. I must admit that a few times he was even exasperating, but it was always easy to forgive him and move (continued)

forward. Because he never did anything out of malice.

Fred was one of those valuable people known as a "mover and shaker" and it is a very great loss for all when a person like that dies. When someone like Fred leaves us while still in his prime and full of promise it is doubly sad. I grieve for a good friend who was also a good man. But, the gardening world has lost more. He had an exceptional mind and with it goes the potential for exciting new flowers and plants that only he could perceive and create. Horticulture will be the poorer for his going.

Harold Koopowitz
University of California, Irvine

Fred Meyer was posthumously awarded the Herbertia Medal by The International Bulb Society this year—that group's highest honor.

Before he died, Meyer told family and friends that one of his *Hippeastrum* hybrids won top award at a competition in Europe this year. Leo Berbee of Leo Berbee Incorporated, the largest *Hippeastrum* producer in Holland, said it and several others of Meyer's will be introduced this year. They are dickering over cultivar names for it and the other bulbs to be released.

Fred's brother Thom and his sister Marlene Taylor are left manning New World Plants, the business started with Fred. Thom says of the *Hippeastrum,* "It's in the pipeline. It will be three to five years. These things take time." Be patient. □

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union Tribune.

PAT REGAN'S NATIVE PLANT PUBLICATION PICKS

For interested parties, Pat recommends the following books on natives: *Wildflowers of Santa Monica Mountains* by Milt McAuley (many species occur in San Diego County also); *A Flora of San Diego County* by R. Mitchel Beauchamp (no colored pictures, but great technical information and specific locations where one can see each variety of plant); *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California* and *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California*, both by Glenn Keator. PP

(continued from Horticultural Calendar page 132)

NOV. 6-7

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB Annual Plant Sale. In front of Von's Market, Plaza Center, Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo. Sat. 9AM-4PM. Sun. 9AM-Noon. Benefits California Nativescape Garden at Wild Animal Park.

NOV. 9

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Basketry 101, Make-up Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Reservations 619/298-5182. $5.

NOV. 16

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Creative Class with Palm Skeletons. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Reservations Required. 619/298-5182. $20.

NOV. 23

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Class to make Arrangement for Holiday of your Choice. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Reservations Required. 619/298-5182. $50.

BALBOA PARK; ONGOING PROGRAMS

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Starting September 21, Open to Public.Tues. thru Sun. 10AM-4PM. Docent Tours with Reservations. Fee. 619/232-2780.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. Meet Visitors Center. Tuesdays & Sundays at 1PM. 619/235-1121. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Garden Tours & Events. 9AM-5PM.760/436-3036 or check Web site www.qbgardens.com.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY Free Gardening Classes every Saturday 9AM. 3642 Enterprise Street. San Diego. Info 619/224-8271.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9AM. Call 679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 231-SHOE. Free.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for NOVEMBER/DECEMBER issue is September 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 0084-020)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4753, USA

PERIODICALS POSTAGE

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park" she was also known as the "Aunt of San Diego." For over 50 years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included) for members. If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

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Number of books: Amount Enclosed:

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